

### **Background**

At the December meeting the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board directed the proposed Jack Laws in Eastern Sierra Classrooms (SNC 080210) grant application to its legal counsel for review to determine whether the proposed project would satisfy applicable criteria in order to be eligible for funding with Proposition 84 bond funds.

### **Discussion**

The proposed Jack Laws project would provide educational presentations (two per day for ten days) by an outstanding naturalist/artist/lecturer to students in class in public elementary, middle and high schools in Mono and Inyo Counties. In addition, under the proposal each school would receive a copy of an acclaimed field guide by Mr. Laws. Participating schools would be encouraged to develop activities to be coordinated with the presentations by Mr. Laws.

The proposal involves providing classroom lectures to instill a general appreciation of Sierra Nevada natural resources in students, to explain watershed ecology and explore the biodiversity of natural resources in the Sierra Nevada, and to inspire students to get to know and actively care for natural resources in their Sierra “backyard.” Thus the focus of the project is on indoor activity and general education regarding Sierra Nevada natural resources. While the general focus is on Sierra natural resources, the project would not serve to develop or to provide actions to protect specific, identified watershed resources, or activities resulting in protection or restoration of watershed resources.

### **Conclusion**

Notwithstanding the outstanding reputation of Mr. Laws and the obvious value to the schools and the students of the proposed lecture series, this project does not demonstrate a sufficient tangible contribution to protection or restoration of watershed resources within the meaning of the definitions contained in Proposition 84 to be eligible for funding using bond funds. Therefore, the project will not be funded.